

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 PRS-01 /038 W

----- 069135

R 010800Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4320

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3028

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: MEA PERSONNEL SHUFFLE

REF: A. STATE 047291 B. NEW DELHI 2340

1. JAGAT MEHTA WILL TAKE OVER FORMALLY FROM KEWAL SINGH AS FOREIGN SECRETARY ON MARCH 31, 1976. KEWAL SINGH HIMSELF THEN PLANS TO TAKE TWO-THREE MONTHS LEAVE, AND TOLD ONE EMBASSY INFORMANT THIS WEEK THAT AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF WORKING 14-HOURS A DAY THAT IS ALL HE IS CURRENTLY THINKING OF. WE CONTINUE TO GET REPORTS THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON BUT NOTHING HAS EMERGED THUS FAR FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO INDICATE HER THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT. IT SOUNDS TO US AS THOUGH ANY CHANGES IN INDIAN REPRESENTATION IN US WHICH DO TAKE PLACE WILL NOT OCCUR BEFORE MID-SUMMER AT THE EARLIEST.

2. THE AMBASSADOR TALKED TO KEWAL SINGH ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS OVER THE WEEKEND. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY INDICATED THAT HE HAD AS YET HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN REGARD TO THE WASHINGTON JOB BUT HE STILL EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM HER ABOUT IT. FYI: MEMBERS OF KEWAL SINGH'S FAMILY WHO OPPOSE HIS APPOINTMENT ARE SPREADING UNFAVORABLE RUMORS ABOUT HIM AND
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THESE MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABSENCE OF A DECISION ON HIS APPOINTMENT THUS FAR. END FYI.

SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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